

Iraq Weekly Status Report

January 16, 2008

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
US Department of State**



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary Rice traveled to Baghdad January 15 to discuss recent political developments with Foreign Minister Zebari. **(POLITICAL, page 4)**
- The Council of Representatives passed the Law on Accountability and Justice (commonly known as de-Ba'athification reform legislation) January 12. **(POLITICAL, page 4)**
- MNF-I announced that security in Anbar province will be passed to Iraqi control in March or April of this year. **(SECURITY, page 9)**
- Iraqi VP Hashimi and the Kuwaiti government agreed to set up a "joint technical committee" to discuss reducing Saddam-era debts and obligations. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 23)**
- French President Sarkozy offered to host an Iraq political roundtable similar to the 2007 Lebanese political roundtable that France hosted. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 24)**



POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

Secretary Rice Visits Baghdad to Meet with Foreign Minister Zebari:

- Secretary Rice traveled to Baghdad January 15 and met with senior Iraqi officials including FM Zebari. In a press conference, Secretary Rice said that “this is a time of hope” in Iraq, noting positive political developments at the local and provincial level and a willingness to move forward at the national level. Secretary Rice highlighted Iraq’s improved relations with its neighbors. She also said there is a common interest shared by Iraq, Turkey and the U.S. in stopping the activities of the PKK. The Secretary strongly encouraged Iraqi political leaders to take the opportunity of the improved political atmosphere and expedite the passage of key legislation.

De-Ba'ath Passes in the Council of Representatives:

- On January 12, the Council of Representatives passed the Law on Accountability and Justice, (commonly known as de-Ba'athification reform legislation. The bill was sent to the Presidency Council for ratification.
- President Bush said that the passage of the law “is an important step toward reconciliation.” Ambassador Crocker and General Petraeus issued a joint statement praising the law’s passage, acknowledging the CoR’s hard work and the political compromises that were necessary to pass the bill. The statement noted that actual reform of de-Ba’athification rests on how the law is eventually implemented, but pointed to the law’s broad political support as a sign of the GOI’s collective resolve on that issue.



POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

Shiite Leader Calls on GOI to Invite Sunnis Back:

- Ammar al-Hakim, one of Iraq's most influential political and religious leaders, called on the GOI January 11 to invite Iraq's Sunni Muslim leaders back into the political fold. Ammar, along with his father, ISCI leader Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, also urged PM Maliki to reach out to all those who are out of the government in an effort to bring them back, reiterating that "our strength is in our unity and the bigger the circle of participation, the stronger we will be in solving our problems and making progress," al-Hakim said.



POLITICAL - Provincial

IOM Reports Decline in Numbers, Increased Privation of Internally-Displaced Persons:

- The International Organization for Migration's 2007 review of internally-displaced persons in Iraq reports that displacement rates have decreased, but that the humanitarian situation of the IDP population continues to deteriorate. IOM listed housing as the primary need of IDPs, with one-third of IDPs assessed stating that homes they had left behind were now occupied by others.

Barzani Warns GOI about Status of Kirkuk:

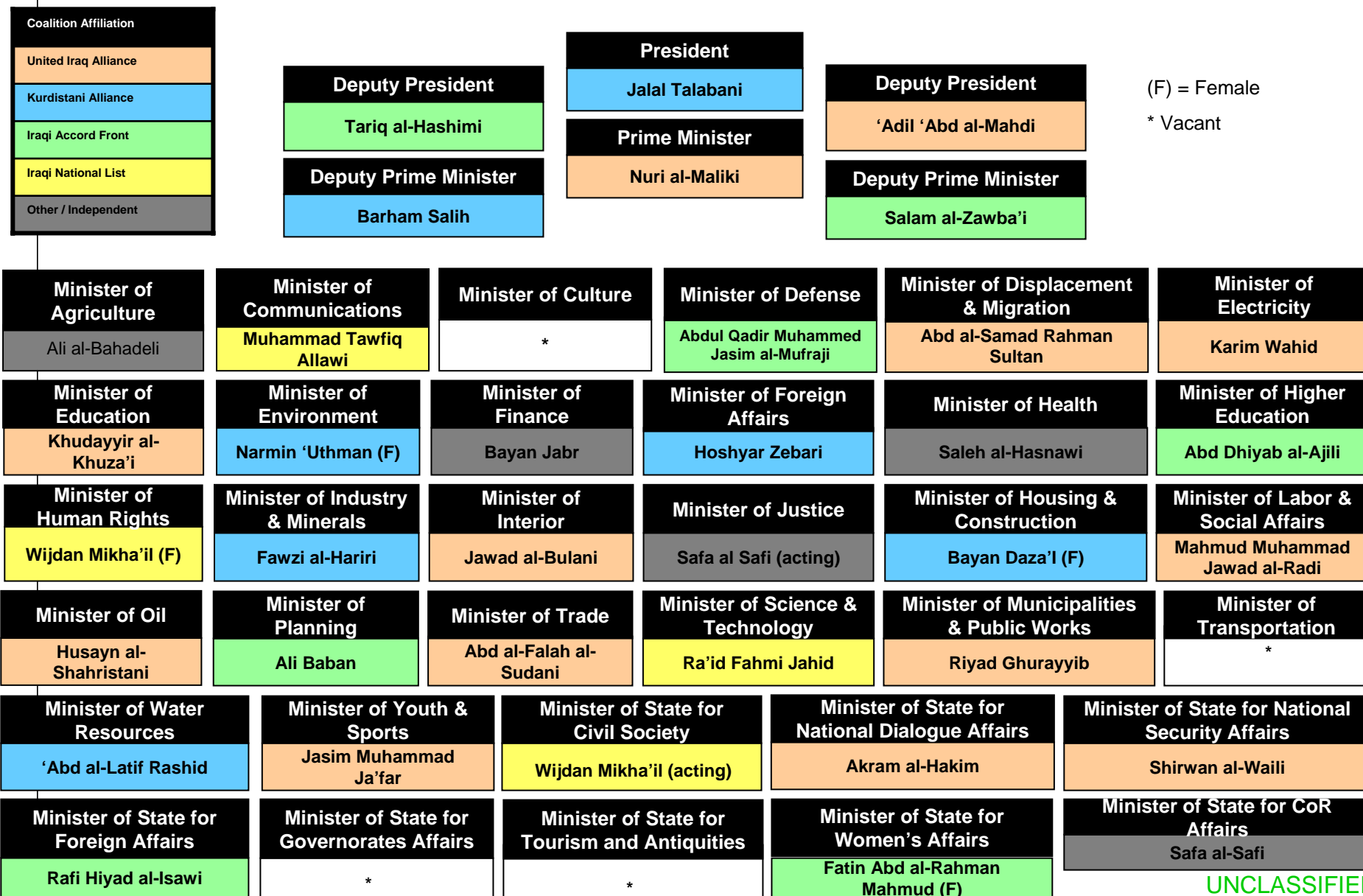
- KRG President Barzani warned January 14 that Kurdish leaders will resist any efforts to scrap plans for a referendum on the status of Kirkuk. His comments came after nearly a dozen political parties in Baghdad called on the GOI to resolve the political impasse over the issue. "There is no turning back...the referendum must be conducted in the next six months" Barzani said.

Babil Provincial Council Meets but Fails to Vote:

- The Babil PC January 8 mustered a quorum for the first time in nearly two months. With two outstanding items on the agenda – the governor's education certifications and the appointment of General Fadhil Raddad al-Sultani as IP Chief. However, the PC declined to address these topics, but rather discussed three other issues: displaced families in Iskandariya; a LTG Qais memorial; and a security plan for the 10th of Muharram pilgrimage to Karbala.



POLITICAL – Government of Iraq





SECURITY - Situation Update

Operation Phantom Phoenix Update:

- Iraq's Operation Phantom Phoenix continues to pursue AQI across four provinces of northern Iraq. Within the first week of the operation, Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces detained 193 suspected extremists, killed 60 suspected extremists, and found 79 weapons caches. These caches included over 10,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, over 2,000 heavy machine gun rounds, over 4,000 pounds of home-made explosives, over 300 pounds of TNT, approximately 100 IEDs in various stages of assembly, over 300 blasting caps, over 50 pressure plates, over 2,000 feet of detonation cord, and many other items. Success in locating these caches significantly reduces extremists' ability to attack CF, ISF and Iraqi civilians.

Turkey Bombs PKK Targets:

- Turkish warplanes bombed Kurdish rebel targets in northern Iraq January 15. The strikes targeted Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) positions in the regions of Zap-Sivi, Avasin-Basyan and Hakurk. It was the fourth air strike against PKK targets in northern Iraq that the Turkish military has confirmed since December 16, in addition to a cross-border ground operation to stop a group of militants seeking to infiltrate Turkey. Turkey has massed up to 100,000 soldiers near the Iraqi border, and the Turkish parliament has given a one-year authorization for cross-border military action against the PKK. According to U.S. Army sources, at least 150 PKK militants have been killed and more than 200 rebel positions destroyed so far, including command and training bases, ammunition dumps and anti-aircraft posts.



SECURITY - Security Transition

Security in Anbar Province to be Transferred to Iraqi Control:

- Colonel John Charlton, the top U.S. officer in the provincial capital Ramadi, reported that Anbar would be officially returned to Iraqi authorities in March or April. Security has been transformed in the western province over the past year after Sunni tribal leaders turned against AQI. Over the past year, attacks in Ramadi have dropped from an average of 25-30 per day to less than one a week. The number of roadside bombs has declined by 90%, with the efforts of the Anbar "Awakening" being credited for the turnaround. The tribal "Awakening" groups have also backed the rapidly-expanding Iraqi police, which now monitor movement into and within the province through a web of checkpoints. Ramadi alone now has 5,100 Iraqi soldiers, 8,100 district police and 1,700 other official security personnel.

Ministry of Interior Celebrates Police Day:

- The Ministry of Interior held its 86th annual Police Day ceremony January 9 in Baghdad to highlight the police forces' growing numbers and capabilities. At the Baghdad Police College, before an audience of 2,200, Mol Minister Jawad al Bolani praised the police, Awakening Councils and the Concerned Local Citizens groups for their efforts in improving security. The ceremony included a graduation of 1,044 policemen from the Baghdad Police College (744 from a nine-month police course and 300 from the recruit training course). The Iraqi Police have grown from approximately 66,000 in 2003 to more than 276,000 today.



SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of December 1, 2007 ^a			
Component	Current Authorized Personnel ^b	Assigned Personnel ^c	Total Trained Personnel to date ^d
Ministry of Interior (MoI) Forces ^e			
Iraqi Police Service ^f	271,850	269,199	176,126
National Police ^g	33,861	31,835	36,504
Border Enforcement	38,000	38,972	31,431
Total MoI	343,711	340,006	244,061
Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces ^h			
Army	186,352	153,871	173,545
Support Forces	17,369	17,252	18,208
Air Force	2,907	1,221	1,286
Navy	1,483	1,109	1,194
Total MoD	208,111	173,453	194,233
Counter Terrorism Bureau			
Special Operations	3,967	3,187	3,485
Total Iraqi Security Forces	555,789	516,646	441,779

a Numbers do not include ministry staffs.

b Numbers reflect Government of Iraq (GOI) authorizations.

c Numbers are based upon GOI payroll data and do not reflect present for duty totals.

d Numbers reflect assigned personnel that have received training.

e Numbers reflect total ISF personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.

f MoI strength does not reflect investigative and administrative forces, the MoI HQ, MoI Forensics, Dignitary Protection, or contracted guards.

g MoI Police Support Unit, Provincial Security Force, and Emergency Response Unit personnel are part of the Iraqi Police Service and does not include other Ministry FPS.

h The MoD strength are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).



ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

Microfinance Programs Providing Positive Influence on Economy:

- PRT distributed microgrants have become the main source of funding for many new entrepreneurs and fledgling local economies, making a positive contribution to the Iraqi economy as a whole. This is in addition to the USAID funded and international and Iraqi NGO-administered microfinance programs in Iraq, which to date have made over 62,000 loans worth over \$130 million (and with a repayment rate of over 99%). Lou Lantner, from the Mahmudiyah ePRT, which has awarded 128 microgrants to date, said, "Even if they have no possessions, and all their equipment is gone, for a small amount...we can get them back (in business)." Individuals interested in opening or restarting a business can receive up to \$2,500. Recent security gains have contributed to this economic success. "We are finding people who are talented, who can contribute, because now the security is at a point where they feel somewhat safe," commented Lantner.

Iraq Reportedly Largest "Defaulting" Member of Arab Monetary Fund:

- Emirates Business 24/7, an online journal, reported that Iraq is the largest "defaulter" member of the Arab Monetary Fund. The report showed that Iraq has an unpaid debt of \$550 million. Although Iraq is committed to settling financial obligations under its Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF, the last Iraq-AMF discussions took place in 2004.



ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

GOI Announces Plan to Renovate Three Largest Cement Factories:

- Adel Karim, Deputy Minister of Industry and Minerals, announced that the GOI has commenced plans to renovate the country's three largest, state-owned cement factories located in Muthanna, Kirkuk and al-Qaim respectively. Funding will be provided by using a mix of both private and foreign investors. Each factory reconstruction project will be managed by an Iraqi-led consortium backed by different foreign investors. Romanian Uzein Export-Import, Lebanon's Seament and Germany's KHD won 15-year contracts and, according to Karim, will invest approximately \$150 million.



ECONOMIC – Oil

Crude Oil Update:

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$88.408/ barrel

Dated Brent at \$93.232/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$94.698/ barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$90.09/barrel

Revenue estimates:

2006: \$31.3 Billion

2007: \$41.0 Billion

GOI Loses Oil Revenue Due to Black Market Activity:

- Platts, a global energy firm, reported that the GOI lost approximately \$1.4 billion in oil revenues in 2007 due to black market activity. Platts reported that approximately 21.5 million barrels of oil were pumped but not accounted for in exports, storage, or refineries.
- Black market activity has benefited from high oil prices combined with high regional demand for refined products. Although 21.5 million barrels is significant, the recent trend in unaccounted oil products is declining. Almost 44 million barrels went unaccounted for in 2006.



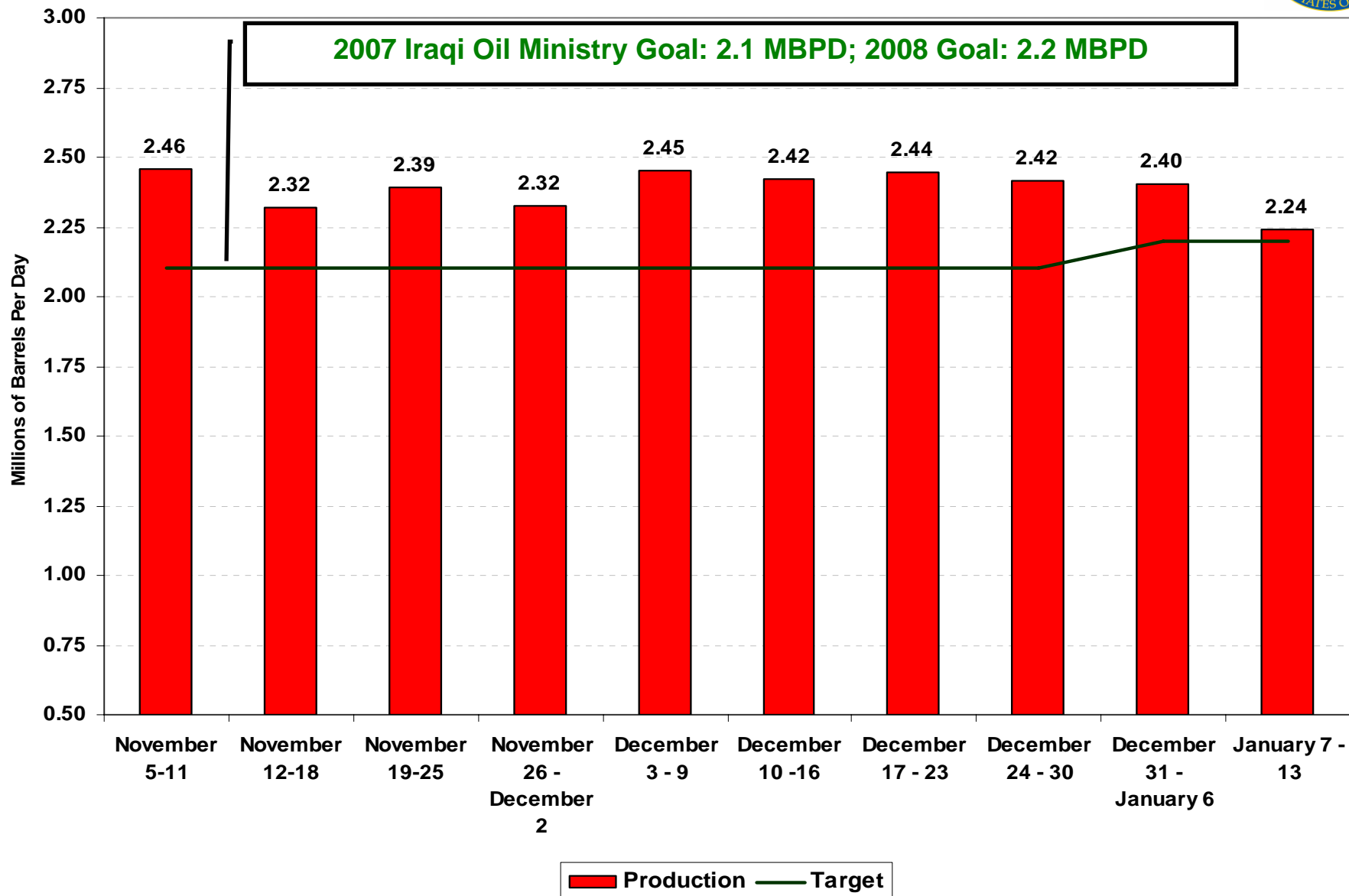
ECONOMIC – Oil

Turkish Investment in Iraq Oil Dependent on New Oil Law:

- Turkish President Abdullah Gul stated that Turkish companies are ready to operate in Iraq, provided a new oil law is passed. Gul spoke at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars during his recent U.S. visit. Gul stated, “The Turkish Petroleum Company has various resources and possibilities that could be put to use literally overnight to help explore for oil and gas.” Turkey previously stated that no oil exported through KRG oil deals would be allowed in Turkey. However, he did not reiterate or speak to this point in his statement. Gul went on to say, “Our recommendation to the Iraqis is the passing of the law as soon as possible,” adding “Turkey will do whatever she can to make sure she’s there to help, not just in the north, but also in the south and across the whole country.”

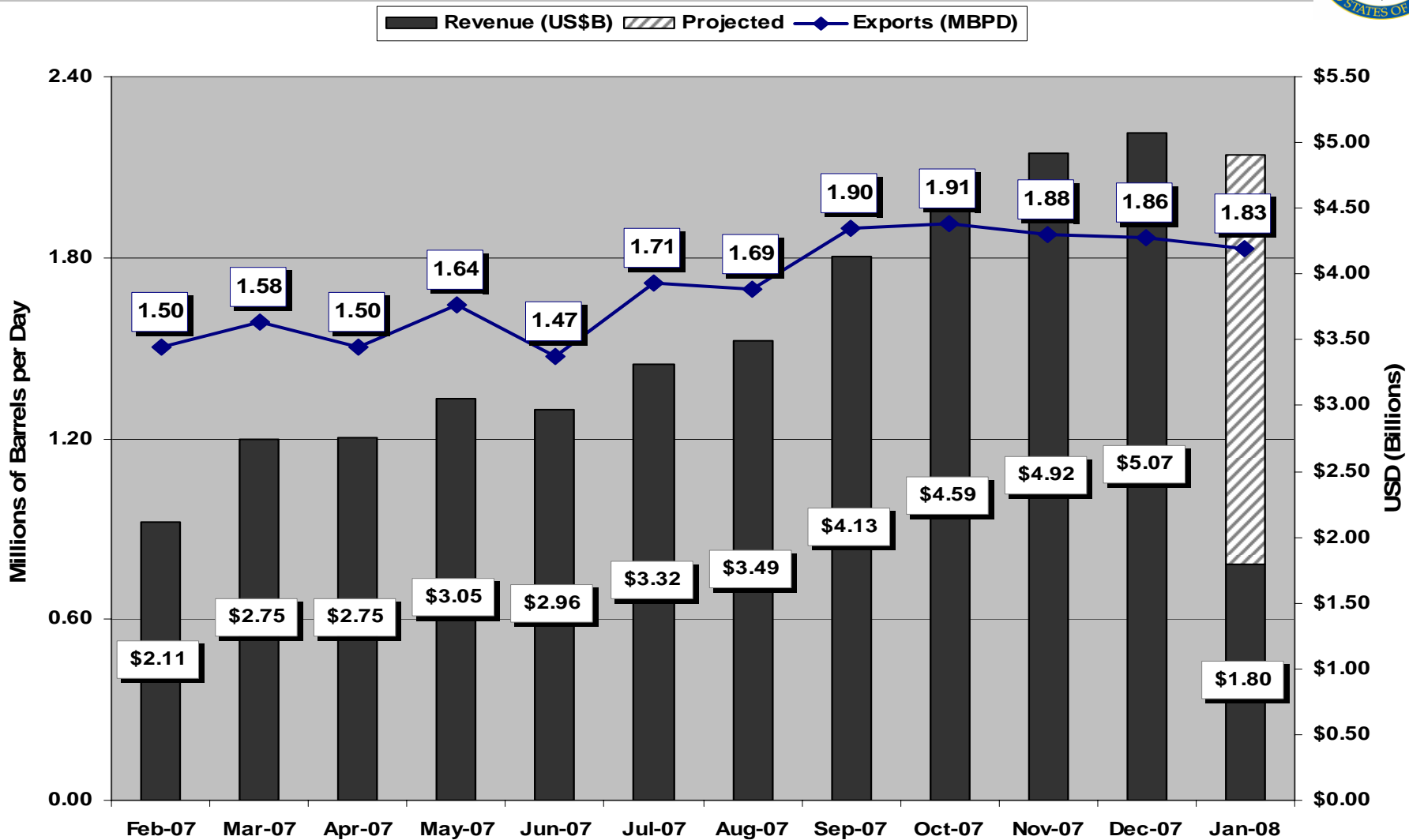


ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production





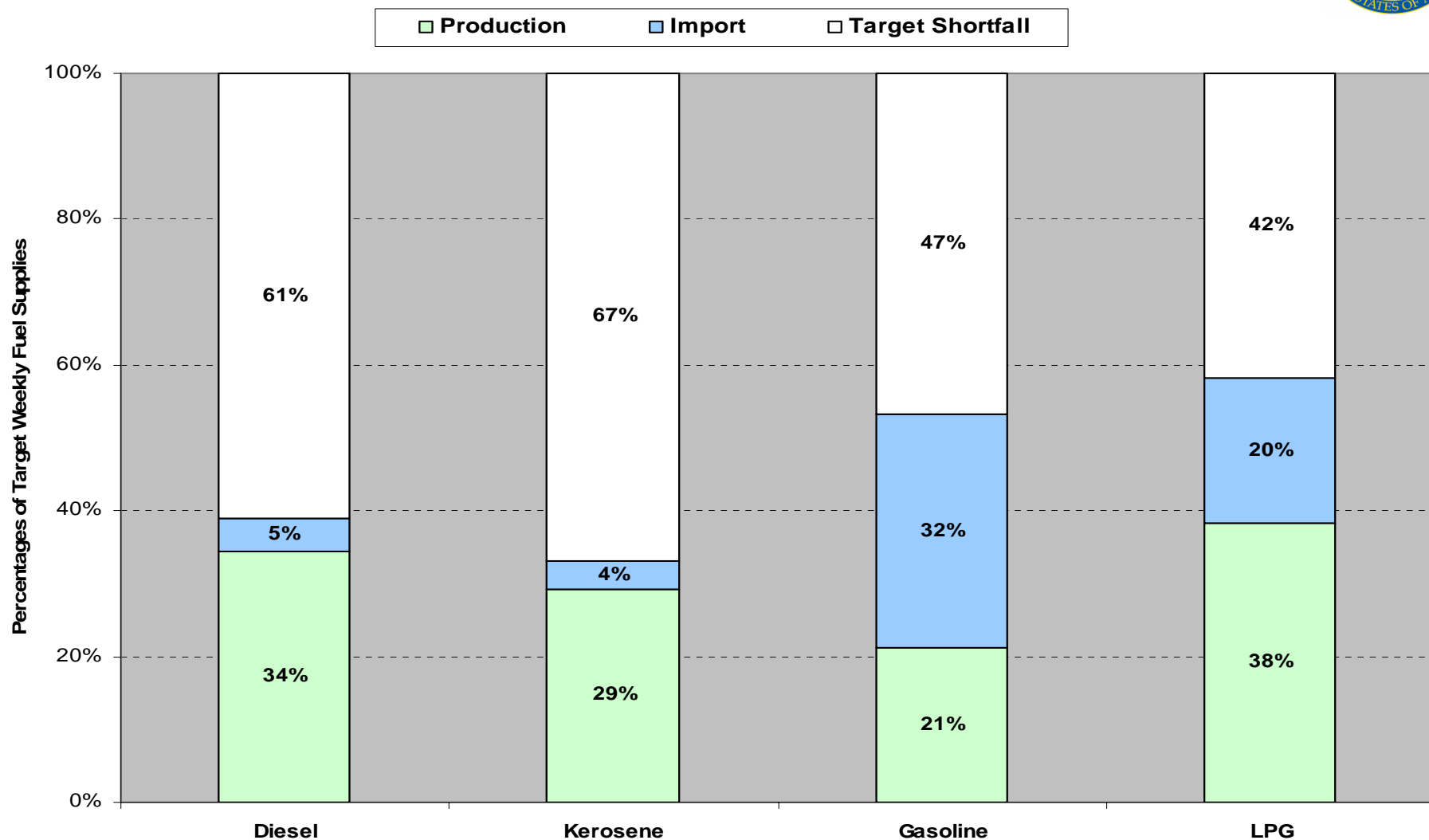
ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export



- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion
- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$41.0 Billion



ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies



Note: This is a daily average for December 24 - 31

- Diesel: 9.5 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 4.8 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 14.3 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 2,964 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



ECONOMIC – Electricity & Health

MoE Cites Neighboring Countries and Technical Issues for Recent Power Failures:

- The Ministry of Electricity blamed recent power issues plaguing Iraq on neighboring countries or technical problems, as opposed to GOI system failure. Aziz Sultan, media spokesman for the MoE, blamed Turkey and Kuwait for recent power shutoffs. Sultan went on to comment, "The Turkish side stopped the electric power line that feeds the provinces of Dohuk and parts of Irbil for technical reasons, while the Kuwaiti side stopped feeding (gas-oil) to the power plant of the MoE in the province of Basrah for reasons not identified by the Kuwaitis." Electricity problems have also been hindered by recent attacks on power lines in Bayji, Baghdad, and Kirkuk.

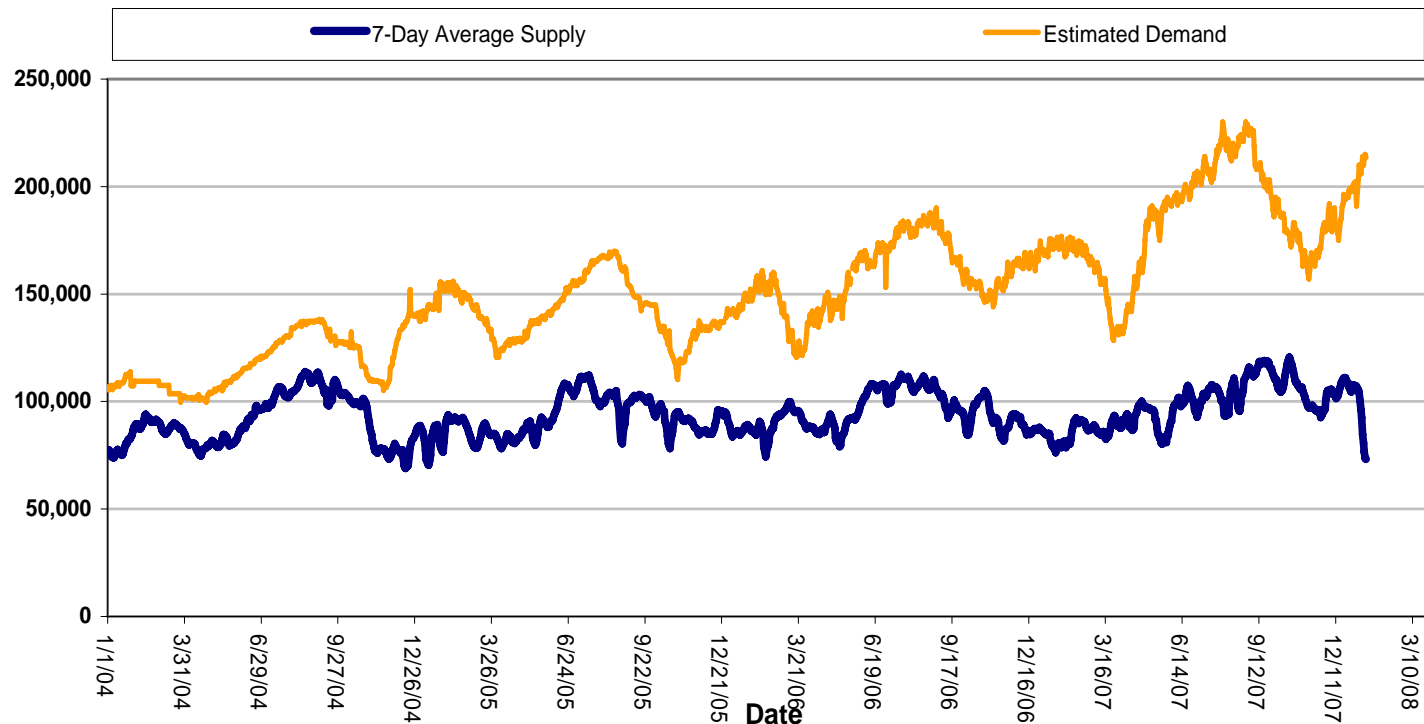
Iraqi Doctors Convene to Discuss the Continuing Medical Education Program:

- Iraqi doctors from across the nation gathered late last week for the first time since the 1980s for a four day conference focused on revitalizing the Continuing Medical Education (CME)/Continuing Professional Development (CDP) Program. The conference, led by the Minister of Health, included the Medical Alliance for Iraq and the U.S. Health Attaché. The conference was preceded by a two day workshop that brought the key Iraqi medical leaders together to help formulate the process for the CME and to develop a working group which would address the formal process leading to international recognition of their program. In attendance was the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health and the Director for the Centers of Disease Control as well as Ambassador Crocker and the Embassy's coordinator for economic and trade issues, Charles Ries. Over 200 Iraqi physicians attended and left with a renewed sense of encouragement and energy to enact changes discussed in the meeting.



ECONOMIC – Electricity

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004

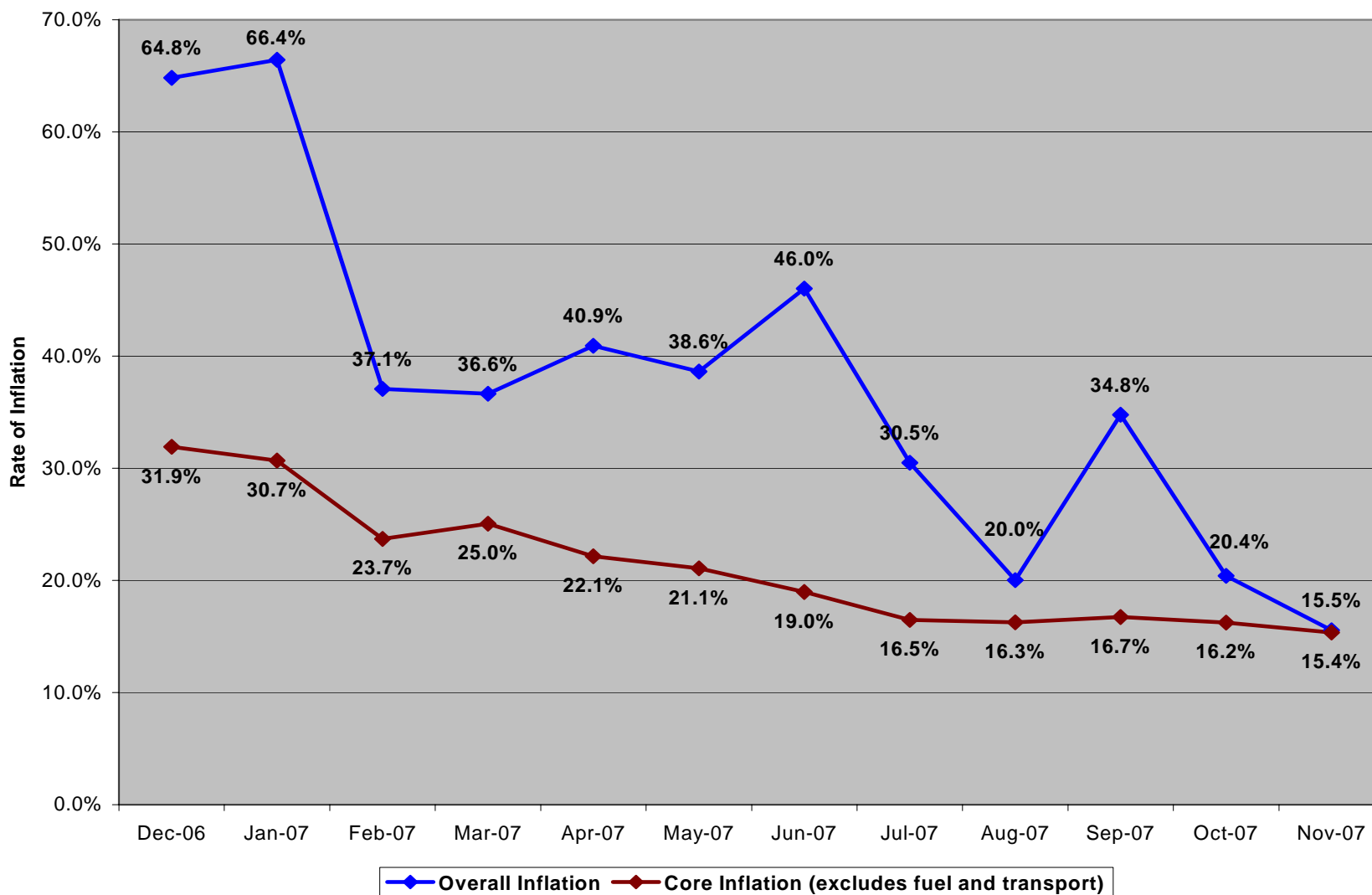


- For January 9-15, daily electricity demand was 22% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 6% below the year-earlier period and met 35% of demand, compared with 45% for the year-earlier period. The average weekly supply was the lowest since January 2005 and the percentage of demand met was the lowest since at least December 2003.
- For January 8-14, average hours of power via the electricity grid after meeting demand from essential services: Baghdad 5.9 and nationwide 8.2. Year-ago levels were Baghdad 3.9 and nationwide 7.7.



ECONOMIC – Financial Indicators

Year-on-Year Inflation





ECONOMIC – Financial Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD)	\$66.39	\$66.47	\$65.81	\$62.82
Yield	9.62%	9.60%	9.70%	10.16%
Central Bank's USD Currency Auction				
USD Sold	\$155, 653, 333	\$150, 408	\$39,299,333	\$66,957,492
NID Exchange Rate	\$1,215	\$1,215	\$1,217	\$1,254.00
Total Employed by USG Programs				
	95,414	93,253	111,398	N/A



ECONOMIC - Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and 2

Sector	Allocated	Un-allocated	Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
			Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law Enforcement	\$4,985	\$20	\$4,964	\$4,961	-\$3	\$4,961	\$4,961	\$0	\$4,855	\$4,855	\$0
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	\$2,264	\$44	\$2,256	\$2,253	-\$3	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$0	\$2,142	\$2,145	\$3
Electricity Sector	\$4,201	\$25	\$4,066	\$4,066	\$0	\$4,046	\$4,046	\$0	\$3,690	\$3,704	\$15
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,714	\$11	\$1,599	\$1,599	\$0	\$1,599	\$1,599	\$0	\$1,553	\$1,553	\$0
Water Resources and Sanitation	\$2,084	\$18	\$1,975	\$1,975	\$0	\$1,971	\$1,971	\$0	\$1,758	\$1,760	\$2
Transportation and Communications	\$454	\$3	\$451	\$451	\$0	\$451	\$451	\$0	\$396	\$398	\$2
Roads, Bridges and Construction	\$332	\$1	\$318	\$318	\$0	\$318	\$318	\$0	\$241	\$241	\$0
Health Care	\$813	\$10	\$791	\$783	-\$7	\$773	\$773	\$0	\$712	\$715	\$3
Private Sector Development	\$821	\$2	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$802	\$802	\$0
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	\$426	\$10	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$394	\$394	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	\$213	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$208	\$210	\$2
Total	\$18,306	\$143	\$17,873	\$17,860	-\$13	\$17,822	\$17,822	\$0	\$16,751	\$16,778	\$27
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,933	\$7,934	\$2	\$7,912	\$7,912	\$0	\$7,641	\$7,649	\$7
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,421	\$9,406	-\$15	\$9,390	\$9,390	\$0	\$8,594	\$8,613	\$19
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$515	\$516	\$1
IRRF I Total	\$2,475	\$0	\$2,291	\$2,291	\$0	\$2,232	\$2,232	\$0	\$2,139	\$2,139	\$0
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,781	\$143	\$20,164	\$20,151	-\$13	\$20,054	\$20,054	\$0	\$18,890	\$18,917	\$27



DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement

Iraq and Kuwait Discuss Reducing Debt and Reparations:

- While in Kuwait last week, Iraqi Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi told news services about his discussions with the Kuwaiti government for a “compromise” to reduce Iraq’s Saddam-era reparations obligations and debts. Hashimi said the Kuwaiti government agreed to set up a “joint technical committee” on these matters, and that Iraq Foreign Minister Zebari would discuss these topics further during his visit to Kuwait beginning January 13. Iraq reportedly has paid more than \$11 billion of the \$41 billion in reparations claims approved so far by the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC). Five percent of Iraq’s crude oil export revenues go to the UN reparations fund. The Kuwaitis told Hashimi that any changes in the repayment terms for reparations would have to be agreed by the UN Security Council. Iraq’s official debts to Kuwait are estimated at between \$8-16 billion; the Kuwaitis say any debt forgiveness will have to be approved by Kuwait’s parliament.



DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

Sarkozy Offers to Host Iraq Political Roundtable in Paris:

- President Sarkozy proposed in the al-Hayat daily January 13 that Iraqi factions travel to Paris for roundtable talks, similar to French-hosted talks among Lebanese factions in July 2007. Foreign Minister Kouchner made a similar offer during his August visit to Baghdad and repeated it in November at the Expanded Neighbors of Iraq Ministerial in Istanbul. Iraqi President Talabani had declined the earlier French offer, stating that the Iraqi situation differed from that of the Lebanese. In the al-Hayat interview, Sarkozy tried to reassure Baghdad that France's decision to open a diplomatic office in Irbil did not imply "hypothetical future independence for Kurdistan." He added that France wishes to open a diplomatic office in Basra when security conditions permit.

New Arab League Envoy to Baghdad:

- The Arab League (AL) plans to send a delegation to Baghdad to "reactivate" the role of its previous Ambassador, Mokhtar Lamani, according to media reports. Lamani, a Moroccan diplomat, left several months ago out of frustration with the AL's lack of support for his mission. Iraqi reaction was mixed, with a member of the Sunni Islamic Party commenting that it might not welcome AL involvement in the "national reconciliation process." A member of the Sadrist movement predicted the mission would be "ineffective" as "some Arab countries have previous negative attitudes on what is going on in Iraq."



DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

Saudi Arabia Publicly Confirms Intention to Open Embassy in Baghdad:

- During a press conference with Secretary Rice in Riyadh, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said that the Government of Saudi Arabia has decided to open an embassy in Baghdad and has already designated an ambassador. The Saudis expect to have the embassy open in the next few months.

Japan Welcomes Iraqi Progress on Reconciliation:

- The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement January 13 welcoming the Iraqi CoR's adoption of the Accountability and Justice Law. The statement also reiterated Japan's commitment to assisting the efforts of Iraq, including through supporting Iraqi economic reconstruction.



DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors

26 Countries with forces in Iraq (including U.S.)

Albania	Denmark	Korea	Romania
Armenia	El Salvador	Latvia	Singapore
Australia	Estonia	Lithuania	Tonga
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Macedonia	Ukraine
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Japan	Moldova	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Mongolia	
Czech Republic		Poland	

TOTAL ~ 10,676 Forces

32 Countries and NATO* (including the U.S.) **Support Iraqi Stability Operations**

*32 includes the U.S., the 25 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey

Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), are not included.



CONTACT INFORMATION

- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to:
NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov



NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)

Slide 4:

- NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov
- Christian Science Monitor - http://news.yahoo.com/s/csm/20080115/ts_csm/areconcile

Slide 5:

- NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

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- L.A. Times - http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-fg-iraq15jan15,1,5275365.story?coll=la-news-a_section
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- January 14 – MNF-I Press Release
- January 15 – AP http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080115/wl_mideast_afp/turkeyunrestkurdsiraq

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- January 10 – MNF-I Press Release - http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16358&Itemid=128

Slide 10:

- DoD Input to Iraq Weekly Status Report January 16, 2008

Slide 11:

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- January 12 – Iraq Updates - www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/26178
 - NEA Economic Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
- Slide 19:
- POC Department of State, NEA-I ECON, 202-647-9815
 - The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load.
 - Oil Prices are sourced from Bloomberg
- Slide 20:
- Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885
- Slide 21:
- Information regarding the Employment Update was sourced from the ITAO Weekly Report – January 16, 2008.
 - ITAO Weekly Status Report – January 16, 2008
 - Iraqi Bond Prices sourced from Bloomberg
- Slide 22:
- ITAO Weekly Status Report – January 16, 2008
- Slide 23:
- NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov
- Slide 24:
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- Slide 25:
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